

**Accounting Relief for Marginal Properties**

Two workshops have previously been held to receive State and industry input on this rule. Since the draft rule is substantially complete and will soon be forwarded through the MMS and Department review process, the primary purpose of this session was to provide a briefing on the proposed rule.

Features of the proposed rule were discussed including the marginal property qualification levels, the six relief options, and the proposed processing fee. Changes that will be made prior to publication of the proposed rule which resulted from input at this workshop are:

- Identification of the state official responsible for reviewing relief requests will be provided for in the rule.
- States that “opt out” of allowing some or all relief options for their state may “opt back in” at a later point in time.

Workshop participants were advised that MMS hopes to have a proposed rule for marginal property accounting relief published in the Federal Register no later than February 1998.